

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate World Environment Day, which is recognized every year on June 5th. World Environment Day was established by the United Nations in 1972 during the commencement of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. For the last 37 years, World Environment Day has been one of the ways that the United Nations has increased awareness in every country about our environment through its goals of giving a human face to environmental issues, empowering people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

This year, the theme for World Environment Day appropriately focuses on taking action to combat global warming. This year's anniversary comes as people from nations all around the globe are calling for action to move towards a clean energy future that will not only drive economic growth but also protect our planet. As the world readies for the United Nations Climate Change Conference this December in Copenhagen, this anniversary also serves as an important reminder of the need for global action as the international community prepares to come together to discuss the path forward.

The scientific debate about whether humans are causing global warming is over. The reports issued in 2007 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscored the clear need for all countries to take action to reduce global warming pollution. In Copenhagen, the United States and the international community must now turn to how to take action to address it.

Last month, the United States took a major step forward when the House Energy and Commerce Committee reported out the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act. This comprehensive energy legislation will unleash a clean energy revolution here in America that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, strengthen our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and stop global warming. This legislation will build upon the progress we have already made with the passage of the 2007 energy bill and the clean energy provisions included in the recovery package. With the leadership of President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, the United States is finally poised to head to Copenhagen as a leader rather than a laggard in taking action to transition to a clean energy future and reduce heat-trapping emissions.

This U.N. event is an important reminder of our global needs and I want to bring it to the attention of all the Members.

GEORGE S. "BUCK" BLESSING

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of George S. "Buck" Blessing. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life but joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

On this occasion, we join with the immediate family and loved ones in saying farewell and praising God for his life. George S. "Buck" Blessing was dearly cherished and well respected by his loved ones, his colleagues, and the community. His service in the Army in World War II illustrates his dedication to America and its ideals. Please rest assured that your extended family from Congressional District Three joins your immediate family and community in recognizing George S. "Buck" Blessing's outstanding service to this nation. As you experience the stage of grief, please find comfort in God's words and wisdom. He is a constant power of strength in these times and will continue to lift you and your family.

Remember, we join Reverend Charles Belz and your friends and family in celebrating George S. "Buck" Blessing's tremendous life. We are all with you in this time of transition. There is an emptiness that only those who have lost a close relative can understand. May the sympathy of those who care make the sorrow of your heart less difficult to bear. If my staff or I may assist you or your family in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us.

In closing, I know that George S. "Buck" Blessing would be extremely proud of the tremendous work his grandson, Nick Martinelli, is doing in my office on behalf of the armed services and veterans. Nick Martinelli is carrying on his family's strong tradition of service to this nation, and I am very thankful for the contributions he makes every day.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and recognize Lynn Morton-Weil, who is retiring after more than 21 years of service to the people of Sonoma County.

During her tenure as a county employee, Ms. Morton-Weil worked in six departments as well as serving as personal assistant to three county supervisors, Tim Smith, Mike Cale and currently, Valerie Brown. As such, she embodies much of the Board's institutional memory.

In addition to her official duties, she helped establish the Sonoma County Regional Park Foundation and served as its first Executive Director. She also administered the first Community Partnerships for Youth grant, which included developing the application process,

contract and monitoring criteria and served as Project Director of the Sonoma County Juvenile Prevention Commission.

Recognizing the importance of public service and involvement, she has dedicated countless hours to both candidates and causes.

She takes pride in living in a television-free household, so her retirement hours will be filled with her passions: gardening, hiking, cycling, music, theatre, dance and most especially, her friends, family and her eagerly anticipated English springer spaniel puppy.

Madam Speaker, Lynn Morton-Weil has served her community and her county well for much of her adult life. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her for her public service and wish her well on her retirement.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 626) to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes: